(b) if so, what is the schedule of implementation of the said refinery;

(c) whether it is a fact that the implementation of the refinery in question is being delayed due to difference between the IOC and the Hinduja's over setting up of a lube blending plant;

(d) if so, what are the points of differences and the decision taken thereon; and

(e) what steps Government have taken to ensure timely implementation of the Orissa Oil Refinery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) Government have decided, in principle, to set up a 6 MMTPA refinery as joint venture in Eastern India with IOC as a partner with 26% equity. As per the decision, IOC is to select the JV partner and then come to the Government. A letter of Intent has also been issued to M/s. Ashok Leyland Gotco on 14-8-1992 for setting up a refinery of 6 MMTPA capacity in Paradip, Orissa.

(b) The approximate time required for putting up a refinery is between 48 months to 60 months from the date of approval by the Government.

(c) IOC is yet to finalise the selection of a partner for the Joint Venture Refinery.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

2933. *[Transferred to 26th August, 1993.]*

Checking Quality and Quantity of Petrol at Petrol Pumps

2934. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any machinery exists to check quantity and quality of petrol supply at petrol pumps;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the number of cases registered and penalties levied during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether there is a provision to make surprise checks of Petrol Pumps; and

(e) if so, the number of surprise checks made during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Checks and inspections are carried out by Oil Companies and State Government officials of quantity and quality of products supplied.

(c) During the last three years 35 (thirty five) cases were registered all over the country and action taken against defaulting dealers.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) During the last three years, 66454 surprise checks were made.

According Authority to Recommend two LPG agencies to each MP

2935. SHRI BHADRESWAR GOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to accord authority to recommend two LPG agencies to each Member of Parliament in a calendar year; and

(b) if so, by when the said authority will be provided to the Members?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Criteria for allocation of Kerosene

2936. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have fixed up any criteria for allocation of kerosene;

(b) whether any growth rate in allocating kerosene to the State is allowed;

(c) if so, at what rate;

(d) if not, what are the reasons thereof;

(e) whether Government of Gujarat had requested for more allocation of kerosene; and

(f) if so, what action has been taken by Government of India, if additional allocation of kerosene is not made to the State, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) The allocation of kerosene to various States/UTs is made by the Government

of India on historical basis.

(b) and (c) No growth rate was allowed in allocating kerosene to States/UTs during 1991-92 and 1992-93.

(d) Kerosene is a deficit product and in view of the limited availability of the product on account of foreign exchange constraints and heavy subsidy involved, it has not been possible to allow any growth rate.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Import of SKO is allowed under Parallel Marketing Scheme for sale at non-subsidised rates.

Formation of a Joint Company with IOC

2937. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to form a Joint Venture Company with IOC, Balmer and Lawrie and the French Company NYCO SA; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (c) Government have approved the proposal of Balmer Lawrie and Co. Ltd., for setting up of a Joint Venture Company (JVC) with Indian Oil Corporation and NYCO SA of France for manufacture of special purpose lubricants. The proposed JVC will have 50% equity participation by NYCO SA, France and 25% each by Balmer Lawrie and Co. Ltd. and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.

Exploration of Medium and Small Sized Oil Fields

2938. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question 53 in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th April, 1993 and state:

(a) whether Government have completed evaluation of the offers of bids received from Indian and Foreign companies for the exploration and development of medium and small sized oil fields, and if so, in how many cases evaluation has been finalised;

(b) if so, what are the details of such companies and oil fields in respect of which evaluation has been completed and contracts have been finalised;

(c) by when the evaluation of the remaining companies is likely to be completed and contracts finalised; and

(d) what progress has so far been made in the assessment exploration and development of each medium and small sized oil fields in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) While evaluation of all the 117 bids received has been completed, negotiations with the bidders are in progress. Award of contracts would be finalised after negotiations with the bidders are completed.

(d) The programmes in this regard for each of the medium and small sized oil fields will be known only after the award of contracts.

बिहार में पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों और प्राकृतिक गैस की उपलब्धता

2939. **श्री कामेश्वर पासवान :** क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बिहार में 16 से अधिक स्थानों पर खुदाई के दौरान पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मिलने के संकेत मिले थे;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान बिहार में तेल के कुओं की खुदाई के लिए कोई धन राशि निर्धारित नहीं की गई है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस आयोग द्वारा बिहार राज्य की उपेक्षा किए जाने के क्या कारण हैं और तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) मंत्रालय द्वारा आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान बिहार में तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस की खोज करने और तेल के कुओं की खुदाई के लिए क्या प्रावधान किया गया है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (कैप्टन सतीश शर्मा) : (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) इस कार्य के लिए परिकल्पित कार्यक्रम के लिए धन-राशि उपलब्ध है।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(घ) आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान बिहार में किये गये सर्वेक्षणों के लिए तेल एवं प्राकृतिक गैस आयोग तथा आयल इंडिया लिमिटेड द्वारा लगभग 16 करोड़ रुपये की धन राशि उपलब्ध कराई गई है।